The Lions' Pride

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Softball Seniors Last Season

By Victoria Calvillo
Contributing Writer

Softball season has officially begun at Saint Leo University. The SLU softball team have had many exciting victories and have made appearances at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) seven times.

Being a part of a sports team comes with many wonderful experiences, one of them being that the team members become close and develop philia love for one another. Five seniors graduating Spring of 2017 are the perfect example of what a team's dynamic should look like. Michelle George, Rachel Heath, Danielle Bottley, and Stephanie Adkins expressed their bittersweet feelings about moving on from Saint Leo's softball team, and moving forward with their careers. Their personalities bounce off one another's, creating a close-knit environment between them. The four also mentioned how they were saddened that Samantha Ohmie, the fifth softball senior, was absent the day of the interview.

George, biology major, has been playing softball at Saint Leo University for four years. Heath, elementary education major, has also dedicated the last four years to the Saint Leo University's softball team.

George and Heath have played since they were young, "I've played since I was five, making it… seventeen years," said George.

George and Heath's favorite part about playing for Saint Leo University has been the coaching change, referring to Erin Kinberger, who is on her second season coaching the Saint Leo softball team.

"I also like how much the team has grown, because of the new changes," Heath said.

George and Heath also mentioned that their best memory was making it to regionals together.

Due to George's long-term relationship with softball, she would very much like to continue, "I would love to [continue playing softball], but I would rather go into coaching," she admits.

Heath also agreed she would love to go into coaching as well, "But only if an opportunity came long."

Bottley, psychology major, has been a member of the Saint Leo softball team for two years.

Bottley, along with her team member George, has been playing since she was young, "I have played since I was seven years old," Bottley said.

Post-graduation, Bottley said she would love to continue with softball. "Sure, I would love to continue, if the right opportunity came up."

Adkins, health care management major, has played the same amount of time as her fellow team member, Danielle Bottley. The pair joined the softball team two years ago, and have developed a special bond, noticeable to the people around them. Adkins and Bottley share the same favorite part about playing for the campus' softball team, which has been the relationships made, "The family dynamic, and cultural aspects are my favorite part of being on the team."

"Going to the Berry Series last year was amazing too," Adkins said.

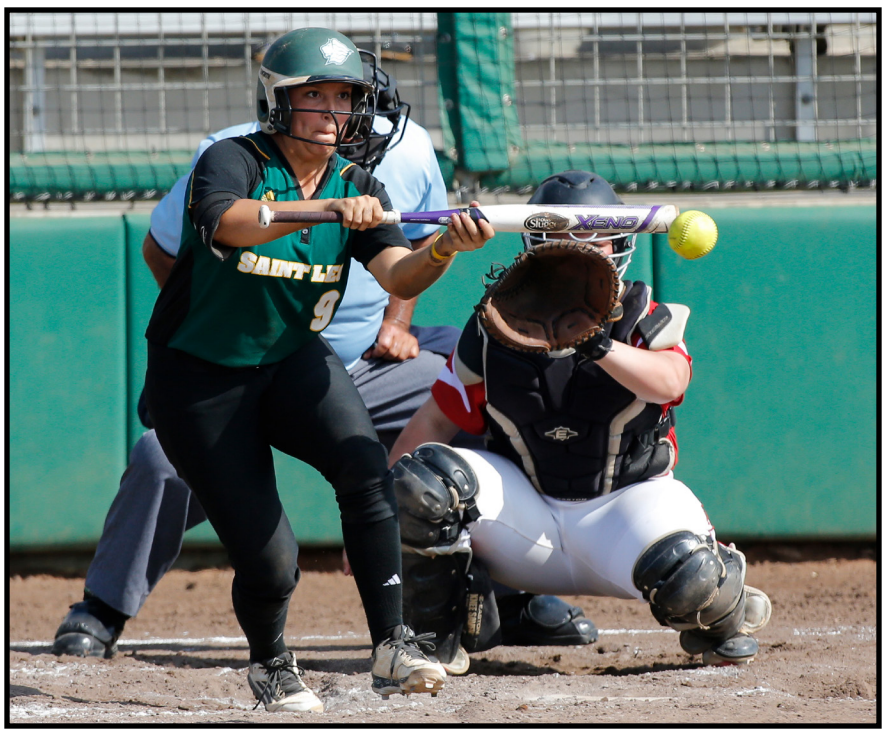
Photo provided by Saint Leo Athletics

Samantha Ohmie (right) shows a sign of sportsmanship as she high fives Coach Kinberger (left).

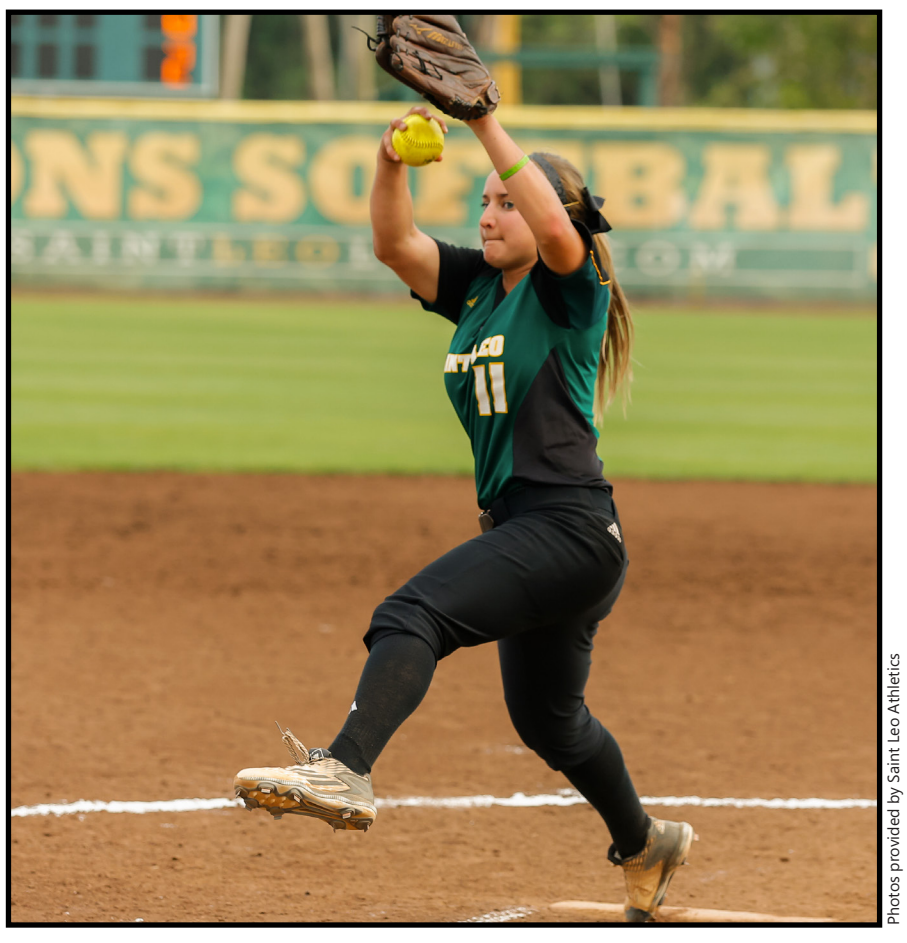
Adkins, however, is more focused on her future career in healthcare than her future in softball, "Maybe, I would continue to play, but I'm more focused on my career right now."

The last comment added from the four seniors was, "Go Lions, baby."

The University will sincerely miss Bottley, George, Heath, Ohmie and Adkin's love and dedication to softball. There is no doubt that the five will miss playing for the university. The Lions' Pride hopes that the quintet will have a successful last season, and successful life to come. Special thank you to Brad Bee, director of athletic communications, for taking his time to set up the interview.



Michelle George had an apparent devotion to softball.



Photos provided by Saint Leo Athletics

Stephanie Adkins has perfected her pitching craft throughout her long history of playing softball.

Editorial

Are Textbook Prices Too High?

By Michayne Stoney
Staff Writer

With the rising costs of textbooks, many college students are finding it increasingly difficult to purchase the ones that are required for all of their classes each semester. This undoubtedly has the potential to severely impact their performance in class, as their grades may greatly suffer. Similarly, many people are discouraged about earning a higher education because they not only have to think about tuition, but they also have to consider the soaring costs of textbooks they have to pay each semester.

A report posted by the United States Public Interest Group in February of 2016 stated that, "Over the last decade, the price of college textbooks has soared. Since 2006, the cost of a college textbook increased by 73% - over four times the rate of inflation. Today, individual textbooks often cost over $200, sometimes as high as $400."

The report also went on to say that, "Nearly 5.2 million U.S. undergraduate students spend a total of $1.5 billion dollars of financial aid on textbooks every semester, or $3 billion per year."

From these statistics, it is evident that textbook costs have been on the rise and are progressively getting higher. But if this is so, how are students expected to purchase textbooks throughout their entire college career?

Here on campus, a few students shared how they managed to afford their textbooks this semester.

"I try to find people on my school's Facebook page who are selling their used books at a significant cost. I find that many of them have no more use for the books and as such, they just want to get rid of them for really cheap. This semester I bought my Business Law book for half the original price. Buying my textbooks secondhand is also useful because the previous owners often have notes [in the books], or sections highlighted which are of significant benefit to me," said sophomore Business and Accounting Major Joey Williams.

"I did not anticipate spending so much money on textbooks in college, but despite the cost, I try to get all my books within the first week of school. Last semester, I delayed getting them but doing that made me fall behind with readings and assignments. This year however, I got my textbooks within the first week of school because I could not afford for that to happen again," said freshman Biology Major Laurian Simpson.

"I tend to rent most of my textbooks on sites such as Amazon and Chegg. If I can, I also see if I can find the eBook version, because they are generally much cheaper than hard copies. Last semester, the bookstore here at Saint Leo had a price match system, so I made use of that to get my textbooks for the cheapest possible price," said freshman Computer Science Major Romario Williams.

Each semester, students have to find unique ways to ensure that they are able to acquire their college textbooks.

However, there seems to be some hope in sight. According to a statement released by Illinois Senator Dick Durbin last year, there are plans in place to lower the costs of textbooks nationally.

"We should promote a system that helps students manage costs by making high quality, open textbooks easily accessible to students, professors, and the public for free. It is a model that has worked at schools across the country, including the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in my home state," said Durbin.

Similarly, the Chicago Tribune reported that, "The Affordable College Textbook Act [put forward by Senator Durbin] would provide grants that schools could use to publish what are essentially online materials that are free for professors, students, researchers and others."

If systems such as this are implemented, students will have a much cheaper alternative to purchasing costly textbooks and being worried about the high prices for college books will be a thing of the past. Until then, students have to take full advantage of secondhand textbooks, renting from online sources, as well as using price match systems similar to the one that is sometimes offered by bookstores on college campuses.

Here's what you missed online this week at www.prideonlinedot.wordpress.com

Painting Sunsets

Photo by Olivia Callahan

To kick off Leo Love Week, students were invited to get in touch with their inner artist at CAB Painting Night. To see what masterpieces were created, read the full article online.

Stuffed Animals and Lattes

Photo by Olivia Callahan

On Feb. 15, students all over campus were making new friends. Literally. To see what kind of cuddly critters were created at CAB's Stuff a Plush event, check out the article online.

Saint Leo Business Week

Photo by Niclas Bez

From Feb. 6 - 9, students were introduced to all the tricks to succeeding in the business world during Saint Leo Business Week. To find out what great business ventures were started, get the full story online.

Newsroom

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Campus News

A Night for Sweethearts

By John Hall
Contributing Writer

Encapsulated in the spirit of unity, and matriculating down from the core of love on Valentine's Day, were the melodious sounds of the Saint Leo Chamber Singers and Just the Facts. The groups performed Feb. 15 in the Black Box Theatre and presented the theme "Sweethearts."

Scores of persons from the local community, members of staff, students, and their family members teemed into the room for a night they would not soon forget. Jennifer Orendorf, administrator of events and special programs, opened the event and served as compere giving small amounts of history on each piece of music sung.

A myriad of heartwarming pieces, such as Burt Bacharach's, "What the world needs now is love" and Dolly Parton's "And I will always love you," kept the audience on the edge of their seats. The heterophonic sounds, coupled with the dynamics of a warmly lit room, continued to swell the hearts of the attendees for the hour of the concert.

One of the pieces, "Bill" by Jerome Kern, performed by Olivia Callahan, entertained the crowd beyond measure. The ballad told the story of a woman that could not give a single reason why she loved a man named Bill. Callahan's strong alto voice pierced the hearts of the audience while her mannerisms created a completely new layer to the piece, communicating in totality the woman's obsession.

Similarly, Rosemary Lucyx gave a stellar performance of Zina Goldrich's "Taylor the latte boy," about a woman highly infatuated with her local Barista. Lucyx's performance, much like Callahan's, gave a humorous yet powerful message about one of the many manifestations of love.

Another notable performance from the night came from Yohana Fasida, who performed "Latch" by Sam Smith. Yohana wowed the crowd as he began in his baritone voice and progressed to a rich falsetto that, like the other performances, solicited thunderous applause.

The night was filled with song after song creating an impalpable bond between lovers, friends, and family alike. Julisa Vinas, first time visitor to BlackBox Theatre, lauded the event and applauded its organization and ability to take her back in time while sticking to its theme.

Vinas said, "I liked that they maintained the culture and tradition of the songs from the past, so the youth of today can live and experience them in the same way that the past generations have enjoyed."

Orendorf said, "Our expectations for attendance for the performance were 60 people, and we superseded that! The performers work so hard throughout the year, and it is always encouraging to see them perform for a captive and appreciative audience. I was pleased to see a very even blend of members from our local community, family and friends of the performers, and Saint Leo faculty and students."

Looking forward, Orendorf lists a heavy agenda for the School of Arts and Sciences. "We'd certainly love to see our music fans turn out for the Canta Italia Concert that will be held on Mar. 8 at 7 pm in the Abbey Church. It's going to be a performance of the sacred choral music program that Saint Leo Singers International will take on the road for the spring break tour of Italy! Our hometown fans get to see the program first in a beautiful church setting with wonderful acoustics. We're also very excited about our visiting Woodrow Wilson Fellows Reggie and Kim Harris, from the Council of Independent Colleges."

The Harris' performance will serve as a part of the school of Arts and Sciences celebration of Black History Month.

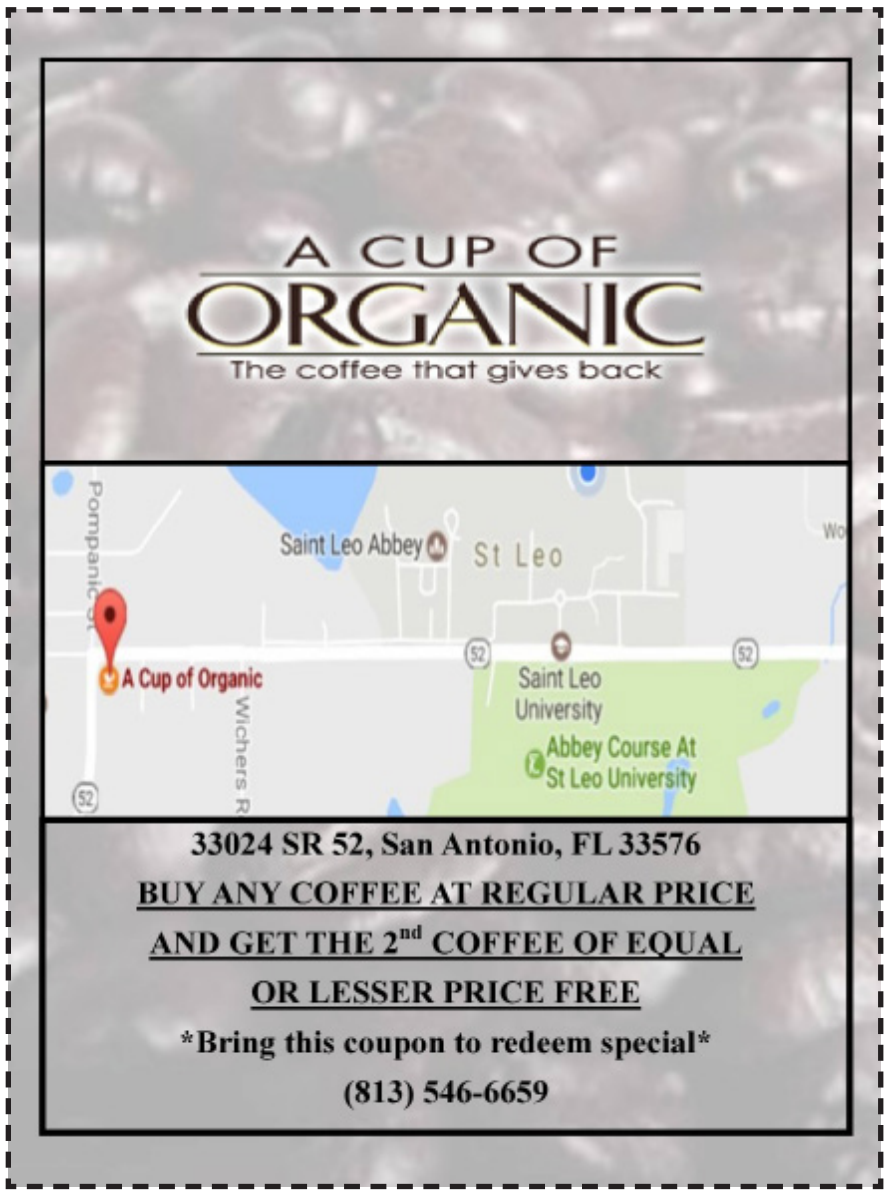
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Photo by John Hall

The combined ensemble closed the show with "What the world needs now is love." The song, popular in the 1960s, was originally performed by Jackie DeShannon.

National

The Problem with Wrongful Convictions

By Travis Farmer
Staff Writer

In America, one of the most common phrases in the judicial system is "innocent until proven guilty." But what happens when someone is innocent but proven guilty?

A survey by C. Ronald Huff, the director of the Criminal Justice Research center at The Ohio State University, says that more than 10,000 people are wrongfully convicted of a serious crime every year. This alarming figure is found using math and is actually a very conservative number, according to Huff. If there are so many wrongful convictions each year, what is the protocol for this seemingly common event?

Once convicted, prisoners have an avenue to get out if they were truly wrongfully convicted. Prisoners may appeal to a higher court than the one that convicted them, for example, The Florida Supreme Court or even a federal level appellate court.

One recent example of a wrongful conviction can be found on the Netflix original documentary "Making a Murderer" with the case of Steven Avery. Avery was convicted in 1985 of rape and attempted murder, despite having a strong alibi and the witness composite sketch looking nothing like him. Even so, he was convicted due to a strong bias from the local sheriff, whose wife was Avery's cousin who shared a feud with him. Avery sat in prison for 18 years until science advanced to a point where DNA evidence exonerated him of the crime. The documentary then focuses on his life after his release, his negligence lawsuit against the sheriff's department, and later his second conviction for murder.

Avery and many others who are wrongfully convicted, have been assisted by The Innocence Project, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to finding cases of wrongful convictions and working to get people who have been wrongfully convicted released using evidence.

David Persky, a professor of criminal justice at Saint Leo University, says that one of the biggest advances in wrongful convictions is the progress of forensic science and DNA evidence.

"As forensic technology has improved, there have been more and more cases that have been reopened in recent years for the admission of evidence that has exonerated inmates that were wrongly convicted," said Persky.

The Innocence Project has achieved the release of 343 wrongfully convicted prisoners, of which 20 were on death row, through way of reexamining DNA evidence, according to The Innocence Project on the organization's website. The Innocence Project has also assisted in finding more than 147 actual criminals in the cases they were examining for release. Also, for those released people with the assistance of the Innocence Project, the average jail time served was 13 years.

Nevertheless, many states have different policies to respond to wrongful convictions as well as different policies based on time served. In all states, the wrongfully convicted are released and usually pardoned of whatever crime is on their record. However, compensations for the time served is more complex. As of 2017, the Federal government, the District of Columbia, and 30 states had wrongful conviction compensation laws, but 18 states do not, according to The Innocence Project. Many people, who have been wrongfully convicted and then released, receive next to no compensation from the state; according to the Innocence Project, only 50 percent of the cases they have resolved have received compensation. Fortunately, many of these cases find help in civil suits against the government and pave the way for future law changes.

Photo from@innocence

Time Magazine recently published a special edition of the magazine titled "Innocent: The Fight Against Wrongful Conviction" to commerate the Innonence Project's 25th anniversary.

The Innocence Project is trying to get compensation laws changed; according to their website, they strive for the wronged to receive financial and legal compensation. The average compensation in states with such laws and as well as federally is $50,000 for every year spent in prison, and $100,000 for every year spent on death row. However, only 50 percent of wrongfully convicted cases are rewarded financial compensation, as reported by The Innocence Project. According to The Florida Legislature's website, Florida statute 961.06 enforces this monetary compensation, as well as a free 120 credit hour college education, reimbursement for all court fees, and a clearing of the person's criminal record.

Of the 343 released cases that were released by the Innocence Project, 70 percent were of minority groups. This statistic is a large focus to many groups, such as the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. In American history alone, it is impossible to know just how many minorities, specifically African Americans, were wrongfully convicted simply for their color. Especially in the 19th and 20th centuries, some truly unfair cases were brought against minorities. For example, Ed Johnson was an African American man accused of sexually assaulting a Caucasian woman in 1906 Chattanooga. The victim was knocked out with a certain weapon, and Johnson was arrested after he was seen supposedly carrying the weapon, despite the fact he didn't own such a thing and one could not be found. Ed Johnson was sentenced to death by an all-white jury, despite several solid alibis. When his conviction was overturned by the United States Supreme Court examined the case and ordered his execution be delayed; however, when this news broke, a mob with the help of the sheriff stormed and jail and murdered Johnson anyway. Johnson's tragic story is just one of many in the history of racial bias in the justice system, standing with the likes of the Scottsboro Boys, the Trenton 6, and the Central Park 5. All these cases involved minorities, who were punished unfairly by the criminal justice system.

There have been many steps made in recent years for both compensation and prevention. Under the George Bush administration, the federal $50,000 per year spent in prison compensation law was written, and under the Obama administration forensic science was funded with the goal of preventing and overturning wrongful convictions.

In conclusion, wrongful convictions are a massive threat to the integrity of the criminal justice system. The issue is receiving examination from advocates, like The Innocence Project as well as the United States government. Thanks to this examination, there have been many steps in resolving the issue in recent years.

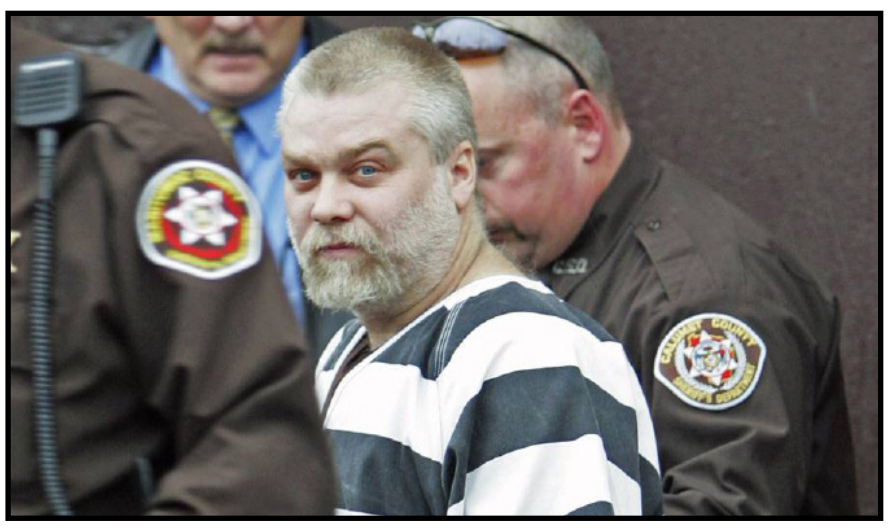
Photo from @HiRezLife

Stephen Avery, documented in "Making a Murderer," was released with the help of the Innoncence Project after spending 18 years in prison for a crime he did not commit; however, he was charged shortly after his release and sentenced to life in prison without the possiblity of parole for a murder, which he denied taking part in.

Worldwide

Unemployment Around the World

By Niclas Bez
Staff Writer

The unemployment topic is one of the most discussed topics by politicians and leaders around the globe. In the 2016 U.S. presidential election, unemployment was one of the major points with both candidates having very different approaches on how to lower the unemployment rate.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) is one of the leading resources in gathering information about employment and economic trends on a global scale. Every year, they publish a World Employment Social Outlook that analyzes past data and gives projections for future employment trends. The latest version was published in early 2016 and projected rising unemployment in 2016 and 2017.

The report shows the scary trend of rising unemployment that can be blamed on a world population that is growing faster than the economic growth can keep up with. Also, in the year of 2015, the world unemployment increased by more than one million to over 197 million. However, this number does not factor in less developed countries, who do not provide precise data about their employment rates.

In addition to these missing statistics, there have been major changes in the way the unemployment has been measured. Over the years many presidents in the United States have changed measurement criteria to make themselves look more successful as a president. This has impacted the unemployment rate in the U.S. since 1994 when President Clinton changed how the Bureau of Labor Statistics redefined the workforce. This major change is that at that time it excluded approximately four million people that were looking for a job for more than a year.

With these changes being made the current unemployment in the United States is at 4.7 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is the lowest rate that the United States had in almost ten years and one of the lowest in history.

"Don't believe these phony numbers. The number is probably 28, 29, as high as 35 [percent]. In fact, I even heard recently 42 percent," President Donald J. Trump said at a speech in early 2016.

In Europe, the unemployment rate varies a lot between the central and northern European countries and the south. The average unemployment rate in the European Union is at 8.3 percent, according to statista.com. While many European countries like the UK, Hungary, Denmark, Germany, and Norway have unemployed rates below five percent, there are other countries that struggle from unemployment, especially for younger people. In fact, the unemployment rates in France, Portugal, Slovenia, Italy, Serbia, Croatia, and Spain are still over ten percent.

"The way Europe behaved in the crisis was nothing short of disastrous. Five years ago, the United States and Europe had approximately the same unemployment rate and level of public debt. But now, five years later, it's a different story: Unemployment has exploded here in Europe, while it has declined in the United States. Our economic output remains below the 2007 level. It has declined by up to 10 percent in Spain and Italy, and by 25 percent in Greece," said French economist Thomas Piketty in an interview with the Spiegel Magazine.

Photo by mypgnow

According to Lawson, during the academic year 2015-16, 359 of 1531 residential students used counseling services on Saint Leo campus. This is about 23% of residential students.

In Asia, the unemployment is low when compared to the western countries. Economic powerhouses, India and China, have employment rates below five percent, according to data collected from tradingeconomies.com. Also, countries like Japan, Singapore, and Vietnam have even lower unemployment rates at three or under three percent.

This significant difference can be explained by the social benefits that someone gets while being unemployed in most Asian countries. In China, for example, there is an employment insurance that was established by the government in 2011 and requires employers to pay an insurance for certain benefits. This step was an approach to model after western standards regarding employee benefits. However, the unemployment pay is very small and does not provide people with the social aid that people receive in western nations.

Especially in many European countries offer good benefits for unemployed people that includes free housing and a monthly paycheck. In Germany, for example, an unemployed person receives more than someone who is working for minimum wage after tax deductions.

Across the world, the topic of unemployment will continue to be of extreme significance for every country. Having people employed is not only important for the country's economy, but also for the people. There is the desire to provide for the family and live a good life. Countries that have previously have been able to offer jobs and job security have excelled, like The United States. The future will show how this topic will change through global economic markets and its effects on unemployment around the world.

Staph Infections: Is There a Cure?

By Matthew McCann
Contributing Writer

According to pubmed.gov, a website affiliated with The National Library of Medicine and National Institute of Health, staph infections have an incident rate of 20 to 50 cases for every 100,000 people per year. And among these people, 10 to 30 percent will die from this infection, accounting for a greater number of deaths than for "AIDs, tuberculosis and viral hepatitis combined." After 50 years of this infection being introduced into society, there is still no cure.

Staphylococcus aureus, more commonly known as staph, is a group of bacteria that cause infection. The bacteria's genus includes at least 40 different types of bacteria. The bacteria are found commonly in areas on the body such as the nose and skin, and on mucous membranes. The bacteria will become an issue if it enters deeper into the body, like into the bloodstream, joints, bones, lungs, or heart. If the bacteria can gain access to any of these areas, it can cause diseases that are fatal to the human body.

Staph is spread through a variety of different outlets, like contaminated objects or skin to skin contact. Staph infections are especially common in areas like schools and hospitals; places where germs are plentiful and common.

Staph infections can cause other ailments, such as boils, food poisoning, cellulitis, and toxic shock syndrome. In some instances, staph infections can even be fatal. Symptoms can include the collecting of pus, like boils and abscesses, and a tender or swollen area.

Although staph infections have been a serious issue for many years, there is still no vaccine.

Many forms of staph infections are treatable with antibiotics. However, some forms of the bacteria have developed resistances to all current antibiotics, and are therefore untreatable. Professionals are working on a couple different and new methods to treat staph infections.

According to Cassie Martin, in her article *Staph Infections Still A Concern*, "a natural antibiotic recently found in human noses may lead to drugs that target antibiotic-resistant staph."

Doctors and researchers are hoping that a vaccine, if it could be developed, would be able to help hospital patients, who are prone to staph infections, and people with weakened immune systems as well.

On University campus, staph infections are a central concern for health services. There are fliers outside of the nurse's office which offer information on the bacteria and how to prevent its spread. Teresa Dadez, the director of health services, had plenty to offer regarding staph infections and how to prevent their spread.

"You have to protect yourself from whatever could be there," said Dadez. "Protect your family. Use hot soap and water, wash your clothes, wash anything that could make contact. If you've got one of those nasty little bubbles (an infected area), keep it covered at all times."

Staph infections have been a problem for a long time, and after more than 50 years of research, it's perplexing that we still have not developed a cure. As more forms of Staph keep adapting resistances to our current antibiotics, the race to find a way to treat and prevent staph infections from occurring becomes tighter and tighter.

Arts & Entertainment

Finally! "Resident Evil: The Final Chapter"

By John Hall
Contributing Writer

"Resident Evil: The Final Chapter" is the seventh movie in the Resident Evil franchise starring Mila Jovovich and is directed by her husband, Paul W.S. Anderson. It features Jovovich reprising her role as Project Alice, a physical weapon created by the Umbrella Corporation. This is marketed as the last of the series of movies in this zombie apocalypse world.

Alice's goal is to right the wrongs made by her former bosses in The Umbrella Corporation. The corporation after conducting experiments on Alice released a destructive virus called the T-Virus on the world. The virus has converted two-thirds of the world's population into mindless flesh eating zombies. Exposure to the virus occurs, either through blood contamination or by being bitten by a zombie.

The onset of "Resident Evil: The Final Chapter" gives the audience an abridged view of all the characters and subplots associated with the first six movies of the franchise. Optimism about the structure of this movie is relatively high within this portion as it further swells expectations of what will be seen. This "refresher" on the previous movies while annoying to some viewers, proved as introduction for newcomers to the franchise.

However, the movie takes a turn for the worst and emulates several different movie franchises in particular, "Mad Max Fury Road," which is known for its fast paced action scenes with fast paced editing. It then begins to solicit cheap thrills from viewers with jump scares. The jump scares in the scenes of this movie are void of any music or sound, which is abruptly disturbed by action.

"Resident Evil: The Final Chapter" then continues on its quest of attempting to bring finality to the franchise, by tying up loose ends and unexplained plot holes left behind by previous movies. One of which is the origin of the Red Queen, a holographic projection of a young girl within the Umbrella Corporations facilities.

"Resident Evil: The Final Chapter" is not short on action; when it gears up, there are only non-stop heart racing thrill after thrill. What goes unnoticed, however, is the trivializing of Alice's abilities. Initially, the franchise portrayed Alice as having superhuman abilities and even telekinetic powers. Her abilities in this movie though, are as common as any person with access to martial arts training and weapons. This makes this film feel disingenuous to a series of movies that have built a legacy behind a character of great strength. In the previous iterations of the series, Alice used her superhuman abilities given to her by The Umbrella Corporation's experiments, to fight against the company and the hordes of zombies and monsters they have created.

Overall, "Resident Evil: The Final Chapter" is a guilty pleasure for all fans of the franchise in terms of seeing their favorite character on the screen once again. But in an effort to wrap up an already convoluted series, it creates even more questions than answers and does not provide the satisfaction that it had advertised.

Upcoming Events

Renaissance Festival
Date:
2/6 - 3/20 @ 10 AM - 6 PM
Location:
11315 N 46th St., Tampa, FL 33617
Contact:
813-983-0111
Price:
$12.95 - $20.95
Description:
Visitors can travel back to the 16th century and experience live entertainment including jousting, artisans selling their wares, games, and food and drink fit for a king.

Pasco County Fair
Date:
2/20 - 2/26 @ 4 PM - 11 PM (Time varies on 2/24 - 2/26)
Location:
36722 FL - 52, Dade City, FL 33525
Contact:
352-567-6678
Price:
$20 - $25
Description:
Visitors can experience daily entertainment, rodeos, hay bale decorating contests, livestock exhibits, and family fun.

College Days
Created by Austin Chiavaroli "The Return of the Midterms"

Arts & Entertainment

Top 5 Monster Hunting Games

By Austin Chiavaroli
Contributing Writer

Photo from @GreatLakesArrow

"Monster Hunter 4 Ultimate" keeps players hooked with wanting to fight more bosses, aquire more resources, and build incredible sets of weapons and armor.

One of the greatest feelings when playing any video game is when a player defeats a difficult, incredibly large, or even towering boss. But what if that feeling could happen more often than the end of every level? In fact, what if the point of the game was to hunt these monster-sized bosses? Well, there is a genre of games that focuses on battling bosses and hunting large beasts during the whole game rightfully titled, monster hunting games.

5. Shadow of the Colossus (2005)

One of the most jaw-dropping experiences of the late 2000's was the game "Shadow of Colossus." The main character of the game, Wander, seeks out to destroy the many sentient stone beasts with the blade of his sword to take their energy and save the maiden, Mono. The beasts of this game range in size, but all are larger than Wander, making the threat seem that much greater. The scale of this game is also large due to the monsters' sizes, the player can feel so tiny and fragile compared to the monsters, making the feeling of defeating the beasts that much more rewarding.

4. Dragons Dogma (2012)

Ever had a dragon steal your heart, leave you for dead, then become your prey? "Dragon's Dogma" gives the player this experience, as the player character must hunt and prepare for defeating this dragon. This game has some of the best RPG mechanics to date and has become one of the most famous monster hunting games. Chimears, hydras, griffins, and more can be hunted in this game, and each one makes the player feel that much closer to getting to fight against the dragon.

3. Toukiden: Kiwami (2014)

When Japanese demons, or Oni, begin to appear in the world, warriors, also known as Mononofu, are sought out to hunt these demons and slay them. With a medieval Japanese theme, this game has a lot of culture and uniqueness to it. The demons in this game are distinct in both design and scale, making the player feel threatened by their appearance. With many weapons, armors, and skill sets, this game shows just what it would feel like to have the title of demon slayer.

2. God Eater 2: Rage Burst (2011)

When the world is brought to its knees by the Aragami, a special division of monster killers called the God Eaters rise up with their giant weapons in hand to defend what's left of the human race. "God Eater 2: Rage Burst" has an anime-rich theme, due to this franchise doubling as an anime series. Customizing their weapons and avatar, the player can then pick a team of characters to go out on missions with them. With the addition of "blood arts," a mode that gives the players a broader attack bonus, this game does its best to deliver one of the best monster hunting games.

1. Monster Hunter 4 Ultimate (2013)

This game franchise is the prime example of the Monster Hunter game genre, as these games test player's skills to dodge monstrous attacks and find openings to unleash their own attacks. By planning new strategies to break off specific pieces on the monsters, the player can make better armors and weapons. But what makes "Monster Hunter 4 Ultimate" better than past installments of this franchise? That is the new mechanic of being able to mount the monsters by jumping off ledges and cliffs. Nothing feels more satisfying than getting onto the back of a tough monster and knocking it down to the ground to get more hits on it.

While the monsters in the other games on this list look unique, the ones in the monster hunter games have unique ways in fighting, unique patterns and sub species, and have such creative designs that tie in with their elements. With the customization, side games, and large amount of replayablility and encouragement to play online with friends, these games are still the top dogs in the monster hunting genre.

Monster hunting games are a very small genre for now, but many have already felt the thrill of the hunt and want more. With sword, hammer, lance, or gun in hand, hunters heed the call to these games to prove their skills at hunting, taking down large beasts, and disproving the odds of size.

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Sports

School Records Fall as Lions Open Track Season at Embry Riddle

By Niclas Bez
Staff Writer

The Saint Leo Track Team opened their season on Feb. 18 at the Embry Riddle Aeronautics last chance meet in Daytona, Fla. The event went from the morning to the afternoon including field events and running events from the 60 meter to the five kilometer race that was the last individual event before the relays.

The Lions were extremely successful from the beginning on. In the first event, which was the 3000 meter run, Colett Rampf and Rafal Matuszczak took home the victory in the men's and the women's race by setting new personal and school records. Both ran an offensive race by leading the field from the front and running an 8:36 for Matuszczak and a 9:49 for Rampf.

Throughout the day, the Lions scored during a variety of events from sprints to distance events. Lauren Csubak was also able to run a school record by placing fourth in the 1000 meter race in a time of 3:07. More top ten places for the women's were performed by Haley Roussel and Tiffany Gargiulo in the 800 meter run, and Natalie McCormick in the one mile race. In the 5000 meter race Laura Tobin placed fourth with Fatima Abu-Rumman placing ninth.

On the men's site, Anthony Deleva was able to place fourth in the 3000 meter run and shortly after that scoring another fourth place in the 1000 meter. Niclas Bez was able to win the one mile race with a school record. More top ten results were scored by Joshua Sickinger and Joe Marrah by placing second and eight in the 5000 meter.

Photo from @Chris Cabret

Joshua Sickinger got second in his first collegiate race for Saint Leo.

"I felt really good today. Starting off the day with the 3000 meter was very hard, since it was very windy on the track. However, running a school record in the one kilometer race was great and I hope I set the bar high for future athletes," said Deleva, who is a junior with a major in sports business.

The last events of the day were the team relays. Saint Leo had entered teams in the distance medley relay, which consists out of a 1200-meter leg, 400-meter leg, 800-meter leg, and a mile at the end. The women's team was able to beat the University of Tampa in a head to head race with Rampf outrunning their big rival on the last leg of the relay.

"I think that it was a very good day for myself and the entire women's team. A lot of girls ran new personal bests and I am very excited to see how the season will continue. At the end of Mar. and in Apr. we will have bigger races, like the Raleigh Relays in North Carolina and the Mt. Sac relay in California. The quality of the athletes in these races is very high and we are looking forward to it," said Rampf, who is a senior with a major in economics.

The last event of the day was the men's distance medley relay. In the order of Deleva, David Gardner, Bez, and Matuszczak, the Lions were having a close race with the University of Tampa and Embry Riddle. In the end, the Lions were able to take the win and break the previous school record by 37 seconds in a time of 10 minutes and 27 seconds.

"Winning is always great, but helping the distance medley relay break the school record was amazing, especially because the other guys are all seniors. I think the coaches prepared us really well, since we were all able to do well in multiple events" said Deleva.

Overall, the Track team had a successful start to their 2017 track season. Both the men's and the women's teams had outstanding performances by setting many personal and school records. However, all athletes will have to keep improving in order to have a chance to qualify individuals for the National Championship that will take place in May in Bradenton, Fla.

"I would summarize today by saying that it was a very successful meet even though we just used it as a test to see where our fitness level is. Knowing that we were still able to break six school records is exciting. In order to keep improving throughout the season we will work in two groups, the mid-distance and the long distance group. Each of the groups will have to work more on performing better at the end of races," said Head Coach Kent Reiber, after the meet.

The Saint Leo men's and women's track teams will return to action on Mar. 3, when the Lions travel to the University of Tampa for the UT Track Invitational.

The men's one mile run featured three Saint Leo runners.

Three time, All-American Colett Rampf won both of her events.

Rafal Matuszczak was able to break his own school record in the 3000 meter.

Photos from @runner4life_77

Upcoming Games for the Week of 2/24/17 - 3/3/17

M Tennis

2/24: Vs St. Thomas 3 PM

W Tennis

2/24: Vs St. Thomas 3 PM
2/26: @ Barry 10 AM
3/1: @ Rollins 3:30 PM

Baseball

2/24: Vs Palm Beach Atlantic 6 PM
2/25: Vs Palm Beach Atlantic 1 PM
2/25: Vs Palm Beach Atlantic 5 PM

Softball

2/24: Vs Embry-Riddle 7 PM
2/25: Vs Embry-Riddle 12 PM
2/25: Vs Embry-Riddle 2 PM
2/26: Vs North Georgia @ Orlando, Fla. 1 PM

M Lacrosse

2/25: @ Coker 1 PM

W Lacrosse

2/25: @ Newberry 2 PM
2/27: @ Queens (N.C.) 4 PM
3/1: Vs Wilmington (Del.) 4 PM

W Basketball

2/25: @ Rollins 2 PM

M Basketball

2/25: @ Rollins 4 PM